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From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:  
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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PU030287

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

International filing date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)

PCT/US04/05682

26 February 2004 (26.02.2004)

28 August 2005 (28.08.2005)

Applicant

THOMSON LIVENING S.A

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

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# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:  
JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI  
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## PCT NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PU030287	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US04/05682	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 February 2004 (26.02.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 August 2005 (28.08.2005)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 15/16 and US Cl.: 709/206, 103, 217; 707/100		
Applicant THOMSON LIVENSING S.A		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>4</u> sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 28 July 2005 (28.07.2005)	Date of completion of this report 17 October 2005 (17.10.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/ US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Lynne Browne Telephone No. (571) 272-2100	

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

## 1. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:  
pages 1-11 as originally filed  
pages NONE filed with the demand  
pages NONE filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:  
pages 12-15 as originally filed  
pages 12-15 as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages NONE filed with the demand  
pages NONE filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages 1-4 as originally filed  
pages NONE filed with the demand  
pages NONE filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages NONE as originally filed  
pages NONE filed with the demand  
pages NONE filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US04/05682**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-21</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-21</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

**2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

Claims 1-21 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest associating the at least one first e-mail with a second e-mail by user-enablement of an association option, and forming an associated group in the user mailbox comprising at least two or more associated e-mails.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

IPERUS 28 JUL 2005

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 AUG 2006

CLAIMS:

1. A method for organizing e-mail messages comprising the steps of:
  - indicating (101) at least one first e-mail message in a user mailbox;
  - associating (121) the at least one first e-mail with a second e-mail by user-enablement of an association option; and
  - forming (125) an associated group in the user mailbox comprising at least two or more associated e-mails.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of associating further comprises the steps of:
  - enabling (123) an options list to appear with respect to the at least one first e-mail message;
  - selecting (123) an associate option on the options list; and
  - indicating (125) the second e-mail; wherein the second e-mail is caused to be automatically associated to the at least one first e-mail to form the associated group.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of providing a show associations (305) and a hide associations option (307) on the options list.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of showing (309) the associated e-mails of a sent e-mail message to a recipient when the show associations option is selected.

AMENDED SHEET

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of hiding (309) the associated e-mails of a sent e-mail message from a recipient when the hide associations option is selected.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a collapsability and expandability feature (219, 213) for the associated group.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of providing a first graphical indicator (221, 215) for indicating when the associated group is expanded and a second graphical indicator for indicating when the associated group is collapsed.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing e-mail operations for performing on the associated group of e-mails (119, 129).
9. A method for organizing e-mail messages comprising the steps of:
- creating a user-defined discussion topic heading (107), said discussion topic heading appearing as an entry in at least one of the user's mailboxes; and
  - associating at least one e-mail message to the user-created discussion topic via user-enablement of an association option to form an associated e-mail-to-topic group (111).

AMENDED SHEET

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of associating further comprises the steps of:

enabling (123) an options list to appear with respect to the user-defined discussion topic heading;

selecting (123) an associate option on the options list; and

indicating (125) at least one e-mail message; wherein the at least one e-mail is caused to be automatically associated to the discussion topic heading to form the associated e-mail-to-topic group.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a show associations (305) and a hide associations option (307) on the options list.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of showing at least one of the discussion topic heading and associated e-mails of a sent e-mail message to a recipient when the show associations option is selected (305).

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of hiding at least one of the discussion topic heading and associated e-mails of a sent e-mail message to a recipient when the hide associations option is selected (307).

14. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of providing a collapsability and expandability feature (213, 219) for the associated e-mail-to-topic group.

**AMENDED SHEET**



15. An e-mail system comprising:

e-mail software for providing e-mail capabilities to a user (101); and

an associate feature (109, 123) for providing interactive e-mail organization capabilities to the user by organizing e-mail messages according to user input to form at least one of an associated group of e-mails or an associated e-mail-to-topic group in at least one of the user's mailboxes.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising an options list with respect to each e-mail message, said options list comprising said associate feature (109, 123).

AMENDED SHEET